

ILLUSION

JANUARY 2002

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FOR EDMONTON'S CROSSDRESSERS AND THOSE WHO ADMIRE THEM

EDITORIAL

Welcome back to the Next Issue! It's been a pleasure trolling the Web and participating in newsgroup discussions and flaming, but more than all is the fact that I have several good sisters in town, who enjoy being themselves and are always smiling. Meetings and bar-crawls are always a joy and a chuckle, with good chats and light hearts abounding. And we look (and feel) great!!!

We're always looking for a few good girls, their significant others, and interested individuals to come to our meetings. We don't bite! The November jewelry show was a baaaaad idea, as milady and I willingly forked over vast amounts of coin for wonderful shiny baubles. The dinner was a packed event as well. As locations occasionally vary, call ahead. The best time to call is Tuesday evenings; Rachael is at GLCCE then.

Also on the home front, look to our website being moved soon – yes, Geocities is a great deal, but with the free sites now showing a loss, there are new limits. For some odd reason, we've been getting fairly high traffic (gosh! Could it be that more and more folks are coming out, or at least showing more interest?). Our webmaster (again, Rachael) is dealing with a local provider for major storage and bandwidth, stay tuned, it may have happened already! And I want to remind everyone that digital copies of Illusion (in colour Acrobat/PDF format) are available for the asking. E-mail me at shae@tic.ab.ca for yours. Thanks to Lacey Leigh for suggesting the format.

Kudos this week go to SEE Magazine; the local artsmag has published a cover story on Illusions in the Jan 10 ish. For online info, go to <http://www.greatwest.ca/see>.

As I've found over and over again, most CDs are photo hams, so there will be a few pictures taken and published. I'm interested in doing a focus article/cover pic on with club members, either at meetings or perhaps out during a Messy Messy Crossdressers' evening. Just the way it is, folks – any excuse to dress up and look pretty!

Shae

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ISCWR Parade of Stars Tuesday Jan 22, the Roost, probably quite late in the evening, get into the swing of things for

The Miss Drag Edmonton Pageant Saturday Jan 26, at Boots. 8pm Meet and Greet, 9pm Showtime

The Messy Messy Crossdresser's Brigade is simply a bunch of local trannies ready to party up a storm at the drop of a hat. Thus far Danielle and Tia, Nikki and Shae, and Elise and Chrissie have left scorch marks on the pavements surrounding the local clubs (quite a feat in only high heels, you must admit), much to the delight of the local GiBLet and artsy crowds. We'll start broadcasting plans for these evenings via e-mail, and can trade phone numbers as needed. Let me know if you want to hear about events.

Winterfest 2002 is on for February 23. Tickets are \$40, which gets us nice surroundings, dinner, and a variety show as well as a chance to meet with many new faces. Please see the back cover for details, and we're looking forward to seeing you there!

Illusion January 2002 - The Newsletter of the Illusions' Social Club

- Illusion is published bimonthly for members, advertisers, and interested individuals. Annual membership costs \$50; a business-card sized ad costs \$25. E-mail the editor for further info.
- Edited by Shae Guerin – e-mail shae@tic.ab.ca - please send your newsletters here!
- Contact PO Box 356, Edmonton, AB T5J 2P2, call 424-2685, e-mail illusionsx42@yahoo.com
- Our website is at <http://www.geocities.com/illusionsx42>, at least for another month or two.
- Cover photo of Empress Ida Claire of the Imperial Social Court of the Wild Rose, by Shae G.

This Issue:

- Letters p2
- Kalina's Makeup Corner p3
- Xmas Dinner p4
- Advantages of a CD Husband p5
- Come Out, Come Out p6
- Reviewed p7

LETTERS

I liked how the newsletter was not just area specific, that will help those folks like me not in your general area still enjoy it.

Lisa — WildCard wildcard@io.com "By the time one can afford the wardrobe, the opportunity to make the most of it is usually fading away." — Response to my statement "I am still asking the same questions I did a decade ago, but at least now I can afford the wardrobe."

— And bits and pieces like yours do help make it so much more than an area newsletter! - Shae

Thanks Shae,
Wished I lived in Alberta, looks like you gals have lots of fun.

Roxy "Roxanne L Moore" roxannel@angelfire.com

— Well, the name of the zine is "Illusions", so it's good it looks like that! - Shae

Hi Shae,
Thanks for sending me the newsletter. I think you did a wonderful job. It was nicely presented, wasn't bloated big, and the photos were great. Content was good too, although it's a shame there weren't more, but as you say yourself, that's up to your members to provide material. Keep it up,
Beng (Beng Tan bengt@cygnus.uwa.edu.au)
Perth, Australia (a bit far from Canada :)

— Indeed, those members do need to show up more in print. Then again, it's the editor's job to wheedle, inveigle, and rope (ah, yes, rope!) unwary contributors — mea culpa! - Shae

Did you get our newsletter yet? We got yours and passed it around at our last meeting, everyone thinks we have quite a bit in common, except that you have more outgoing members than we do. We've got 4-6 that will go out and do stuff, the rest are content with meetings and the occasional party. Where do you girls advertise to get members?

Later!

Luv Shandi, Winnipeg shandi_strong@hotmail.com

— It's pretty much the same all over the community; what we have is a large proportion of New Girls who are cocky and always ready for a party. And some of us are totally incorrigible, always being incorriged. Advertise? This newsletter is probably our best calling card at the local fetish shops... - Shae

Got your Illusions (newsletter). Thanks a lot. The whole thing looked very good. I have yet to read ALL of it, but I did scan and read many sections. I only took issue with one part. I don't hold with an agenda of pressing other

cross dressers to come out. My thinking is that it's a VERY personal decision and one that's bound to effect many people around him as well as personal things like his work, school or other social or professional relationships. His wife or SO must be part of such a decision too, as it will have a major impact on her and his friends and family. We are, after all, more than just cross dressers. We are (I am) first and foremost male. The cross dressing part comes second to that - and SECON is a very high ranking indeed. Still, it's not first.

Again I thank you for sending your publication along and congratulate you on the fine professional look it has. I'm happy to have been a part of it.

Shirley sometimes@yahoo.com

— You make good points about Coming Out. Of course one needs to keep in mind, for instance, that milady's family wouldn't see the humour in the situation, even if one own think it's quite amusing. As this interest isn't faintly illegal, I see no reason to hide it. It makes me quite happy (which shows), and others get a chuckle out of it. Then again, I have little to lose: if someone doesn't want my technical services because I crossdress on my own time, someone else will be totally happy to pay me for it. As well, being more than a little outgoing, I'm ready to go head-to-head with anyone who pulls "morals" on me and dares to tell me what I'm doing is wrong. That said, I really do feel that CDs need to show up in public more often, if only to get the general public used to seeing us. - Shae

Dear Shae,
Kristy from GLCCE here. I was just reading the Illusions newsletter (great job, by the way) and I was delighted to read your review of Oh Susanna!

When I'm not plugging in space heaters here at the centre, I my work as a publicist for one of the Varscona Theatre's resident companies. I was also there at the Hallowe'en show, and sitting with Susanna's producer, Trevor Anderson.

We were both so pleased to see the Illusions girls at the show, and I wanted to let you know that we'd love to see you back there any time. I know that both Trevor and I are so delighted to be working on shows that are seen by people in the community, and your support of this little gem means a lot to us.

Glad you had a good time. You all looked so great!
"Kristy Harcourt" kristy_radio@hotmail.com

— It should be mentioned that Kristy is the host of Gaywire, Thursdays at 6pm on CJSR-FM88.5. The show is over 12 years old! - Shae

"WEARING WOMEN'S CLOTHING IS NOT A BAD THING. FEMALES DO IT ALL THE TIME."

Laura Blake

KALINA'S MAKEUP CORNER

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Awesome Eye Tips

False eyelashes only work in photo shoots. Do not wear them if you are trying to pass in public! To get really long lashes, I recommend Maybelline's Illegal Lengths Mascara. I use this mascara myself.

After every eye makeup application, clean all of your brushes with soap and water and wipe all of your applicator tips with a lint-free cloth. The eyes are an especially sensitive part of your body and should be treated like gold.

Frustrated with eye pencil sharpeners? You needn't be. Either buy the more expensive brands of eye pencils that have the necessary oils and chemicals to maintain a break-free pointed tip or stay away from eye pencils that need to be sharpened. Several manufacturers, such as L'Oreal and Revlon, make "self-sharpening" eye (and lip) pencils that enable you to get a new tip by twisting the barrel of the pencil. To get a really good sharp, smooth tip, angle the tip and gently scrape away at it on the edge of a piece of bond paper, rotating the tip as you go.

Awesome Lip Tips

Thin lips? When applying lip liner, don't stop right at your lip line. Go slightly above the top lip and slightly below the bottom lip. Experiment to see how far you can go outside of your natural lip line before you end up looking like Tammi Faye Baker. Emphasize the "heart" of your upper lip by drawing curved rather than angled lip lines. Practice drawing hearts on paper before you practice on your face.

Tired of the same old lip colors? Add a little pizzazz to your color collection by applying a gloss lipstick on top of a familiar shade. You can also experiment by combining shades that you wouldn't normally think would work. Some awesome new shades have been created this way.

Colorstay Lipshine is a good lip gloss to begin with. The product contains two parts, a longlasting lipstick that you apply with an included brush and a clear lip gloss you apply over the lipstick. Take care not to apply too much lip gloss or it will drip right off of your lips over time!

Awesome Shaving Tips

My favorite razor is the Gillette Mach 3. I'm sold on the hype of the triple-action blades for really close shaves. A runner up is the Gillette Sensor Excel, which is basically a two-blade version of the Mach 3, but feels more like a disposable razor (an expensive one). Consider the Sensor Excel a BMW and the Mach 3 a Mercedes. Each one is a fine razor.

If you have problems shaving in hard to reach places (like your back), try this trick from a professional drag queen. Attach a handheld razor (the nonelectric kind) to the end of a long stick. Now you can use it just like a back scratcher!

Most razor blades are too sharp when you first use them. Dull them a little bit before you start shaving your face or body to lessen the chance of nicks, cuts, or burns. To dull them, try shaving parts of your body that have less sensitive skin, such as your hands and feet. Shave your face before you shave your legs because your razor blades will likely be dull after you finish shaving your legs. Dispose of the razor cartridge when you are done with your legs. Consider using a shaving cream scented for women. An easy way for someone to read you is if you don't smell like a woman. Save your men's shaving cream for your legs.

Awesome Photo Tips

Always wear your makeup heavier for a photo shoot. Some cameras and lighting have a tendency to mute colors and soften lines, so you need to compensate for this by making your makeup appear more dramatic. A skilled photo editor can always desaturate colors more easily than saturate them. I always make my eyeliner about twice as thick for a photo shoot, but it all depends on the look you're trying to achieve. You can look great in real-life, but terrible in photos if your makeup isn't "calibrated" for photos.

There are two major picture categories: snapshots and glamour pictures. Snapshots are usually considered "unprofessional-looking" because they contain artifacts, background noise, and miscellaneous objects that distract the viewer from the true subject of the picture. Glamour pictures are usually professionally done or have a professional appearance about them because they contain proper lighting, angles, and subject focus. One trick professional photographers use to emphasize a subject sitting in front of a busy background is to blur out the background. This tricks the eye into concentrating on the object - the subject - that is in-focus.

You can create some really awesome effects by wearing very bright or shiny colors underneath bright lights. Overexpose the picture a little to lessen the appearance of wrinkles or lines. Remember that these two bits of advice only work for photos, not for passing in public!

Creating Your Own Nail Color

Solid colors are nice and classic-looking, but the girls who like to experiment will go for the wacky, far out colors like chromes and glitters or airbrush designs. With a little creativity, you can create your own interesting color combinations and designs. Try this: Apply two coats of your favorite nail color to your nails. Let dry. Cover your fingertips and spray a very light mist of another color across all of your nails. Sprinkle ultra-fine glitter on top and let dry. Apply a coat of quick-drying top coat on top. Let dry. Now you've got a new shade that nobody else has!

The Art of the Eyebrow

The easiest way to improve your facial appearance is to shape your eyebrows. I recommend that both men and women tweeze their eyebrows. A pair of neat, well-defined eyebrows that suit your face will do a lot to improve your appearance and your confidence which, in turn, can improve your chances for success in both business and professional matters. Start by removing all stray hairs that

cover your eyelids as a first pass. Then remove one row of eyebrow hair at the bottom of each brow in the second pass a few days later. That way the people you see everyday will not notice any dramatic change in your appearance. You can remove another row a few days later, but take care not to remove too much.

Kalina's Hot Colors for Winter 2001/2002

Reds: OPI Russian to a Party

Violets: OPI Black Tie Optional

Browns: L'Oreal eye, lip, and cheek color in Go Go Gold

Kalina Isato <http://www.transvamp.com>

Kalina runs a great website and makes quite a happy, good life as a serious crossdresser in the Philadelphia region.

As well, her alter-ego, Divinity Lee, puts out excellent dance music on the Gorgeous Girl label. Recommended ; Editor's Choice.

ILLUSIONS CHRISTMAS DINNER, DECEMBER 13, 2001

This year's Christmas dinner was well attended and a good time for all. Over two dozen old and new faces showed themselves, and Carole's Cafe does produce good food with decent service, and lovely surroundings.

One of the really nice things about the evening was the number of Significant Others who showed up with their loved ones. And the biggest Nice Thing was the lack of commercial "Christmas spirit"! Everyone had a blast...

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Xmas Girls! Clockwise from top left, Danielle and Tia, Elise and Ladonna, DeeDee with satin lapels, Dawn, sweet lady, and Shae, and our prez Rachael with unidentified Fabulous Redhead. Yes, that's "Xmas spirits" on the tables!

ADVANTAGES OF HAVING A CROSSDRESSING HUSBAND

1. You never have to worry about cheating on you with another woman. He IS the other woman! !
2. He no longer expects you to get ready for a night on the town in 15 minutes or less.
3. He always envies you because he would rather be wearing what you are wearing.
4. You can have a girlfriend and a boyfriend who doesn't mind waiting while you take your time shopping.
5. If you need a slip for that new dress you bought and he happens to have the perfect one, he lets you borrow it.
6. You can take him to the hair salon with you and he will never complain. In fact, he will thank you.
7. The only time he will ever care if you wear curlers to bed is if he has to wear the oversized rollers.
8. He'll NEVER object to being a clothes dummy and wearing a dress while you hem it.
9. While shopping, you can test a new shade of nail polish on him (no complaints!) and he asks to see a matching lipstick.
10. He understands why you don't care for spending 8 hours a day in pantyhose and high heels.
11. He'll never ask you to have a threesome with another woman as long as he can wear the lingerie.
12. He understands much better, that the best thing a girl can have when she feels down, is new clothes.
13. He knows just the right way to make love, takes his time, and knows just what makes you tick!
14. He's a girlfriend who will stick around and won't flake out or stab you in the back.
15. You have even more excuses to go shopping, and he will even carry the bags.
16. You always have a girlfriend to go shopping and have lunch with! !
17. He won't mind waiting on you or your girlfriends and he won't forget to curtsy.
18. You can switch off wearing the high heels while on a long shopping spree.
19. He loves to smell perfume and will give you an honest opinion.
20. If you purchase something for your home, it won't be too feminine.
21. If you dress him up as a French Maid, you'll have a house cleaner for the day.
22. He'll rarely have that scratchy five o'clock shadow.
23. He won't tear your lingerie when removing it from you.
24. He will be sympathetic about your excess body hair.
25. If he buys you clothes, you know he sizes them right.
26. A man in a dress makes a good cook.
27. You can test a new shade of lipstick on him.
28. He is a lot easier to buy gifts for.
29. He never complains about leaving delicate underwear out to dry.
30. You have a girlfriend who doesn't get PMS.
31. He will not only shop with you but pay the bill as well!
32. He knows how to handle delicates when he does the laundry.
33. Satin and velvet are more snuggly than denim and wool.
34. He understands the need for quality cosmetics.
35. You can double your wardrobe if he's the same size as you!
36. You can borrow his jewelry, clothes & makeup.
37. He understands why you go through so many pairs of stockings.
38. If he wears a skirt it's easy access.
39. The world needs more feminists in lipstick.
40. You can take the Cosmo quizzes together.
41. You can ask him how an outfit looks, and get an intelligent response.
42. His new friends don't spend all day watching football.
43. He knows to walk slowly when you're wearing heels.
44. If he says "Hon, you look nice." you know he really means it.
45. He can spot makeup smudges better than any other guy.
46. He loves to go shopping with you and watch you try on clothes.
47. He knows how to treat a lady with care, sensitivity and respect.
48. You have a live in cosmetologist.
49. He loves to dress up and have long chat sessions.
50. You can have a threesome without adding another partner.
51. If you've ever been bi-curious you can experiment a little.
52. You know one of you will have a tissue with you when you need it.
53. At least the toilet seat will be down.



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COME OUT, COME OUT, WHOEVER YOU ARE!

Dealing With Yourself:

TRI-ESS is the Society of the Second Self, a fine American crossdressers' support group. One of their action plans is based on the AA Blue Book outline:

A Twelve-Step Program to eliminate guilt and shame:

1. Admit to ourselves that we are crossdressers, and that we will never be able to rid ourselves of the need to crossdress.
2. Acknowledge that our minds have an undeniable feminine component.
3. Make a decision to let the feminine component of our minds express herself.
4. Make a searching and fearless inventory of our masculine and feminine selves.
5. Admit to ourselves, and at least one other human being, that we have both a masculine and feminine self.
6. Be ready to allow our feminine selves some form of open expression.
7. Allow our feminine selves to appear in the presence of others.
8. Make a list of all persons with whom we are acquainted who have no knowledge of our crossdressing, and become willing to disclose to them the existence of our feminine selves.
9. Inform all such persons of the existence of our feminine selves, except when doing so would injure them or others.
10. Continue to take personal inventory of our lives and be sure that our feminine and masculine selves receive equal attention.
11. Seek through thought and meditation to improve our awareness of our feminine selves and needs.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, carry this message to other crossdressers and practice these principals in all our undertakings.

Support, Serenity, and Service.

<http://www.tri-ess.net>

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"And don't forget your loved ones!"

Dealing with Others: by Laura Blake

- 1) Don't talk about disorders, this only convinces people you are crazy.
- 2) Don't come out apologetically, it makes you sound guilty.
- 3) Don't ask for permission, unless you want to hear "no".
- 4) Don't flood people with reading lists, it tells people you don't understand yourself.
- 5) Don't send letters, this just comes off as cowardly.
- 6) Don't justify unless you want to convince people you are insecure.
- 7) DO listen carefully to what people are saying; their feelings matter as much as your own.
- 8) DO validate and respect other people's feelings. Help them deal with them but never, ever, explain them away.
- 9) DO spend extra time showing people you are still you.
- 10) DO be ready to support and care about people who have difficulty accepting your lifestyle.
- 11) DO understand that you've had years to think about something that you are asking someone else to absorb in a few seconds. Give people time to sort it out and adjust.

Laura Blake is a longtime, knowledgeable, politically and legally active crossdresser, crossliver, and general shit disturber from Ontario. A regular contributor to *alt.fashion.crossdressing* and *alt.support.crossdressing*, she moderates *Alt Support Crossdressing Moderated* on Smartgroups.

ASCDM
Alt Support Crossdressing Moderated

REVIEWED

If you look for it, you'll find it. The Internet:

TheSpark is a very light-hearted look at various facets of modern life, through tests. Their Gender Test asks some of the most unlikely questions (put aside five minutes to do this, it's not short), then issues its "statistically-reliable" opinion on the testee's gender – either male or female. It's particularly interesting that most CDs score high as a female...

<http://www.thespark.com/gendertest>

The Closeted Crossdresser is a Yahoo-based mailing group with several hundred members, a photo library, polls, chat, and other bits. About a dozen new posts show up daily. The site is easily managed, with discussions including how-to tips as well as some fairly serious and constructive attitude and growth. Heartwarming because of the range of experience and the honestly nice people, its only flaw may be the girlish tone. But that's part of it all, isn't it?

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/closetedcrossdresser>

Cross Dressers Anonymous isn't at all anonymous – lots of seriously Out girls, some granola (nuts, fruits, and flakes), lots of good cheer, some area-specific news and experiences, and a reasonable level of support. The photo site is extensive. This mailgroup has a lot of traffic and can bog up your inbox, so a Web-only membership is probably most appropriate. Where other groups can be likened to a walk downtown, this is more like a busy night on Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crossdressersanonymous>

The Friendly Crossdressers are pretty much that. A reasonable picture zone, less of a group feel due to the interface, and a loose batch of people making random comments that essentially have to do with being a crossdresser. Good fun to watch the world in, occasionally throwing in one's own retorts. The most low-key of all three in traffic, it's a little off the main drag.

<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/thefriendlycrossdressers>

Alt Support Crossdressing Moderated is the new kid on the block, set up as a companion to the Usenet newsgroup *alt.support.crossdressing*. It's being run right, the interface isn't too much of a pain-in-the-heinie, and a lot of interesting folks are on it. It will prove to be a safe haven when the trolls invade the Usenet group. At present, it's about a week old, and there have been several hundred messages exchanged already. This site bears watching, and participation.

<http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/ascd>

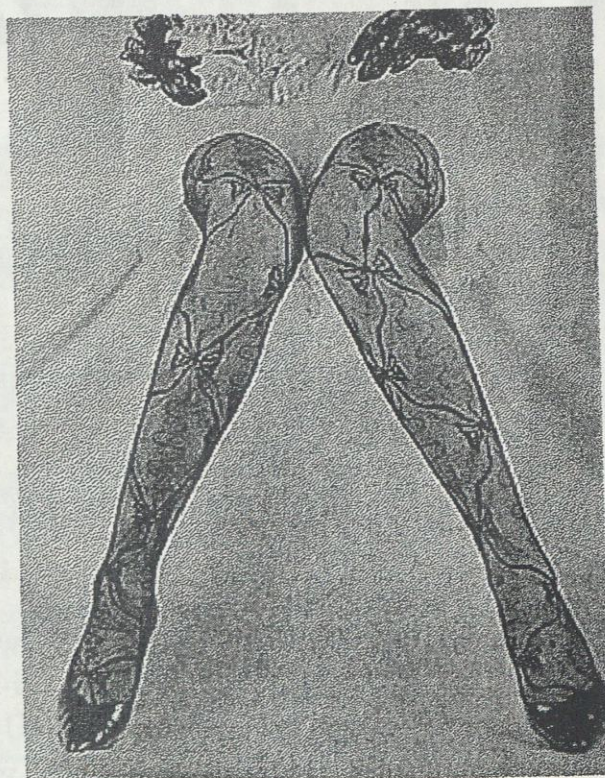
And then there's good old paper reading material:

Ladylike is probably the bar by which other transgendered publications are measured, if only for sheer class. The latest, #47, has settled into a glossy but clean production featuring lots of good readers' photos, a CD profile, great columnists, historical perspectives and makeup tips. It's light-hearted and fairly low-key, has mostly unobtrusive advertising, and proposes a ladylike manner of approaching this special interest. Strongly recommended at 48 pages, Canadian subscriptions cost \$48US for four issues. Getting on the cover of this magazine would be a feather in one's wig forever.

<http://www.cdspub.com/LL.html>

Girl Talk magazine is a San-Diego based glossy, featuring the rich and famous, input from the local movers and shakers, and a tight focus on the nightlife. It features Really Good Photography, and lots of ads. Looks like fun to me, and, as with the previous review, the columnists are Characters. V3#3 even has an interview with Cassandra (Elvira) Peterson. Available here in Edmonton at finer fetish shops.

<http://www.girltalkmag.com>





Illusions' Social Club (Edmonton) Presents

WINTERFEST 2002

Saturday, February 23, 2002



at CAROLE'S CAFE 10145 104 ST EDMONTON

COCKTAILS (CASH BAR) 6:00 PM DINNER 7:00 PM VARIETY SHOW 8:30 PM

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